

## **MEETING OF THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION**

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy Dover, Delaware, on July 17, 2019 **with the following members in attendance:**

- Chairman Robert Garey
- William Vanderwende
- Raymond E. Bivens
- Robert Emerson
- L. Allen Messick, Jr.
- Janice Truitt
- Peter Martin
- Secretary Michael Scuse

**Absent:**

- William H. Chip Narvel, Jr.
- Theodore Bobola, Jr.
- Colleen Davis

**The following Foundation staff members were in attendance:**

- Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture
- Scott Blaier
- Milton Melendez
- Howard Mesick
- Kathi Spangler
- Carrie Wanstall

**Others in attendance:**

- Shane C. Heberling, Parkowski, Guerke & Swayze
- Charles Jones, Century Engineering
- Ralph Truitt, Delaware African American Farms Association

**Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:30 AM.**

### **I. Preservation Districts:**

#### **A. Current Situation Report:**

Scott Blaier informed the Board there are currently 1,257 approved and pending districts and expansions in the program encompassing 174,273 acres. There are 110 easements pending settlement for Round 23 and 14 easements pending settlement for Round 22 and 2 easements pending settlement for Round 21; once these are settled there will be 1,004 agricultural easements encompassing approximately 133,933 acres at an approximate cost of \$234,960,607. A total of 7 new applications for calendar year 2019 have been received, totaling 1,053 acres. The preserved lands for Farmland and Forestland Preservation (once Round 21, Round 22 and Round 23

easements settle) will total 1,018 easements encompassing 135,011 acres with an acquisition cost of approximately \$237 million.

## **B. Young Farmers Report**

Austin Short advised the Board that there are no new changes since the June meeting.

Austin Short stated that an article will run in *The Delmarva Farmer* after the Delaware State Fair to announce the continuous application period for the Young Farmers Loan program as recommended by Mr. Messick at the June 2019 meeting.

## **C. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval**

1. **Anderson Tree Farm Expansion of the Stokely-Pettyjohn Tract District (S-18-10-268A)** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Mr. William Vanderwende moved to accept for expansion and final approval of the Anderson Tree Farm Expansion of the Stokely-Pettyjohn Tract District, seconded by Ms. Janice Truitt. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. **Spiecher Farm Expansion of the Molasses Street District (S-19-04-138Q)** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Mr. L. Allen Messick, Jr. motioned to accept for expansion eligibility and final approval of the Spiecher Farm Expansion of the Molasses Street District, seconded by Ms. Janice Truitt. Motion unanimously approved.**

## **II. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto:**

There were no district or expansion applications thus the Secretary of Agriculture's veto was not necessary.

## **III. Opportunity for Public Comments:**

No public comments were received

## **IV. Minutes:**

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the June 19, 2019 meeting minutes that were emailed or mailed to Board Members prior to today's meeting. **Ms. Janice Truitt moved to approve the June 19, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Peter Martin. Motion unanimously approved.**

## **V. Financial Highlights:**

The **June 30, 2019** Financial Statements were presented by Howard Mesick, who reported that Funds Held by the State were \$162,283.27 and funds in the State Interest Bearing Account were

\$362,818.63 for a total of \$525,101.90. Monthly income of \$1,536.70 was comprised of interest income of \$831.55, \$390.15 (subject to change) rollbacks and license plate income of \$315.00. June Ordinary Total Expenses were \$31,743.19, resulting in a June Net Income (Loss) of (\$30,206.49). Net Income for the year is \$119,167.55 (subject to change). **Mr. William Vanderwende motioned to accept the June 30, 2019 Financial Statements as presented, seconded by Mr. Robert Emerson. Motion unanimously approved.**

## **VI. Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session.

## **VII. Other Business**

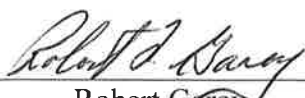
### **1. Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company (ESNG) on the Warren, LLC Expansion of the Exchange Tract Ltd. District (K-18-12-014I)**

Scott Blaier presented a utility easement request from ESNG on the Warren, LLC Expansion (c/o Maria Bobola) of the Exchange Tract Ltd. District located in Kent County; the farm is currently enrolled in a preservation district and not a permanent easement. The farm totals approximately 61.45 acres, and the proposed impact is 1.22 acres for a permanent easement and 5.62 acres as temporary workspace easement. ESNG is in the process of installing a 16-inch natural gas pipeline beginning in Camden-Wyoming and ending near Viola. This project is identified as the "Woodside Loop" and is designed to improve natural gas service in the area. Mr. William Denman of Parkowski, Guerke & Swayze reviewed the easement documents submitted by ESNG for compliance and conformity with the statute and regulations and found them to be in order. **Secretary Michael Scuse motioned to accept the Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company (ESNG) easements on the Warren, LLC Expansion of the Exchange Tract Ltd. District, seconded by Mr. Robert Emerson. Motion unanimously approved.**

## **VIII. Adjournment**

As there was no further business for the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation is **Wednesday August 21, 2019**, at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert Garey  
Chairman